MAR 0 1 2002 E

Attorney Socket No. 53394.000607

Examiner: Not Yet Assigned

Group Art Unit: Unknown

FIN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Douglas R. FREDERISY

Serial No.: 10/046,726

Filed: January 17, 2002

For: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR

ASSEMBLING ABSORBENT GARMENTS

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.115

Assistant Commissioner for Patents

Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Prior to any office action in the above-referenced patent application, please amend the patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please enter the following amendment to the specification. In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.121, a marked-up copy of the amended paragraph is provided herewith as Appendix A.

Please replace the paragraph at Page 23, lines 4 - 18 with the following paragraph:

-- Embodiments of the present invention may be adapted to operate in different positions on an absorbent garment manufacturing line. For example, as shown in Figure 12, a number of air applicators may be used during the formation of absorbent cores 1016. In the embodiment of Figure 12, a tissue supply 1200 is conveyed by a vacuum drum 1202 into a core forming chamber 1204, in which particulate and fibrous material that form the absorbent cores 1006 are pulled onto the tissue supply 1200 by a